

What is claimed is:

1. A method of building an order for replenishing stock of a fluent substance contained in a flexible-walled vessel for use in a production process at a dispensing location, the method comprising the steps of:

reading an indicia on the vessel, said indicia comprising information, a portion of which is machine-readable;

transmitting at least a part of said indicia information over a network to a remote processor;

accessing a database with said remote processor to search for a package record that corresponds with said indicia information;

using said indicia information, update and review an inventory file record, if any; and

generating the order for acceptance and, if accepted, automatically transmitting a request for determining a shipping-carrier and availability of stock at a warehouse.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of reading further comprises using a computerized device to read said portion which is machine-readable; and further comprising the step of awaiting a credit approval for said accepted order prior to performing said step of automatically transmitting a request.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said computerized device comprises a bar-code reader, and, prior to giving said credit approval, a guarantee of payment of the order must be received by electronic transmission; and the fluent substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid reagents, cleaning solutions, solvents, and pesticides.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of reading further comprises visually reading said indicia and manually inputting a package serial number thereof to an input device at the dispensing location, said step of accessing further comprises automatically matching said package serial number with a corresponding package serial number in said database, and if no said match is found after a second search is performed, input said indicia information for storage in said database.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein: said step of transmitting further comprises connecting to said network through a modem interconnected to a computer-processing-unit (CPU) at the dispensing location where the production process takes place, said network comprising a global information network, and accessing a remote modem interconnected to said remote processor; and prior to an acceptance of the order, a modification is made thereto by input to a computerized-display.

6. A system for building the order for replenishing stock of a fluent substance claimed in Claim 1 comprising a computer-processing-unit (CPU) at the dispensing location, said computer-processing-unit (CPU) and said remote processor interconnected to said network through a first and second modem, respectively, and said network comprising a global information network.

7. A system for building the order for replenishing stock of a fluent substance claimed in Claim 1 comprising a computer-processing-unit (CPU) at the dispensing location, said computer-processing-unit (CPU) and said remote processor interconnected to said network, and said network comprising a local area network (LAN).

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the order is accepted and said step of automatically transmitting a request comprises, first, checking said availability of stock and if available, selecting said shipping-carrier from any indicated available; and further comprising the steps of:  
prior to said step of using said indicia information, the step of generating said inventory file record to comprise information about the dispensing location and an earlier order for replenishing stock, if made and originating at the dispensing location; and  
after said step of automatically transmitting a request, the step of automatically generating an invoice for the order as accepted.

9. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the vessel comprises an upper-end and a lower-portion having at least one port through which the fluent substance is dispensed during the production process, and prior to said step of reading an indicia, the step of dispensing at least a portion of the fluent substance contained in the vessel during the production process; and wherein said step of reading an indicia is performed at the dispensing location.

10. A method of building an order for replenishing stock of a fluent substance contained in a flexible-walled vessel for use in a test process at a dispensing location, the method comprising the steps of:

reading an indicia on the vessel, said indicia comprising information, a portion of which is machine-readable;

transmitting at least a part of said indicia information over a network to a remote processor;

accessing a database with said remote processor to search for a package record that corresponds with said indicia information;

using said indicia information, update and review an inventory file record, if any;  
and

generating the order for acceptance and, if accepted, automatically transmitting a request for determining a shipping-carrier and availability of stock at a warehouse.

11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the vessel comprises an upper-end and a lower-portion having at least one port through which the fluent substance is dispensed during the test process, and prior to said step of reading an indicia, the step of dispensing at least a portion of the fluent substance contained in the vessel during the test process; and wherein said step of reading an indicia is performed at the dispensing location.

12. The method of Claim 10 wherein said step of reading further comprises using a computerized device to read said portion which is machine-readable; and further comprising the step of awaiting a credit approval for said accepted order prior to performing said step of automatically transmitting a request.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein said computerized device comprises a bar-code reader, and, prior to giving said credit approval, a guarantee of payment of the order must be received by electronic transmission; and the fluent substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid reagents, cleaning solutions, solvents, and pesticides.

14. The method of Claim 10 wherein said step of reading further comprises visually reading said indicia and manually inputting a package serial number thereof to an input device at the dispensing location, said step of accessing further comprises automatically matching said package serial number with a corresponding package serial number in said database, and if no said match is found after a second search is performed, input said indicia information for storage in said database.

15. The method of Claim 10 wherein: said step of transmitting further comprises connecting to said network through a modem interconnected to a computer-processing-unit (CPU) at the dispensing location where the test process takes place, said network comprising a global information network, and accessing a remote modem interconnected to said remote processor; and prior to an acceptance of the order, a modification is made thereto by input to a computerized-display.

16. A system for building the order for replenishing stock of a fluent substance claimed in Claim 10 comprising a computer-processing-unit (CPU) at the dispensing location, said computer-processing-unit (CPU) and said remote processor interconnected to said network through a first and second modem, respectively, and said network comprising a global information network.

17. A system for building the order for replenishing stock of a fluent substance claimed in Claim 10 comprising a computer-processing-unit (CPU) at the dispensing location, said computer-processing-unit (CPU) and said remote processor interconnected to said network, and said network comprising a local area network (LAN).

18. The method of Claim 10 wherein the order is accepted and said step of automatically transmitting a request comprises, generally simultaneously, checking said availability of stock and selecting said shipping-carrier from any indicated available; and further comprising the steps of:  
prior to said step of using said indicia information, the step of generating said inventory file record to comprise information about the dispensing location and an earlier order for replenishing stock, if made and originating at the dispensing location; and  
after said step of automatically transmitting a request, the step of automatically generating an invoice for the order as accepted.

19. A system for building an order for replenishing stock of a fluent substance contained in a flexible-walled vessel for use in a process at a dispensing location, the system comprising:  
a computerized device for reading at least a machine-readable portion of an indicia information on the vessel;  
a computer-processing-unit (CPU) in communication with said computerized device;  
said computer-processing-unit (CPU) and a remote processor interconnected to a network for transmitting at least a part of said indicia information to said remote processor;  
a database, accessible from said remote processor, comprising package records;  
said remote processor adapted to search for a package record that corresponds with said indicia information; and  
said remote processor further adapted for generating the order for acceptance and, if accepted, automatically transmitting a request for determining a shipping-carrier and availability of stock at a warehouse.

20. The system for building an order of Claim 19 wherein the process is selected from the group consisting of a production process and a test process; the vessel comprises an upper-end and a lower-portion having at least one port through which a preselected amount of the fluent substance contained in the vessel is dispensed during the process, and said computerized device is at the dispensing location.